

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3424

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL TURIN

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: TRIESTE/ZONE B SETTLEMENT

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL PLAJA CALLED ON IN DCM AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 1 TO BRIEF HIM ON YUGOSLAV-ITALIAN AGREEMENT ON TRIESTE/ZONE B WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS THEN PRESENTING TO BOTH CHAMBERS OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT. AS A CLOSE ALLY AND A SIGNATORY OF THE PEACE TREATY OF 1947 AND THE LONDON MEMORANDUM OF 1954, PLAJA SAID THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FELT AN OBLIGATION TO INFORM US ABOUT THE AGREEMENT. (AT THE SAME TIME THAT PLAJA WAS RECEIVING THE DCM, SECRETARY GENERAL MANZINI WAS BRIEFING THE AMBASSADORS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.)

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2. PLAJA SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE PRECISELY WHICH

SIDE HAD TAKEN THE LEAD IN GETTING THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS GOING. HOWEVER, THE ITALIAN SIDE, ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO, BEGAN TO COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO TRY TO SETTLE THE TRIESTE/ZONE B DISPUTE. HE DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT AS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE PROFESSIONALS WHOSE POLITICAL SUPERIORS HAD BEEN LOATH TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO PLAJA, AN AGREEMENT HAD, IN FACT, BEEN REACHED IN MAY, BUT THE ITALIANS HAD HELD OFF GIVING IT THEIR APPROVAL BECAUSE OF THE JUNE 15 ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS AND THEIR DESIRE NOT TO ASSOCIATE THE TWO EVENTS IN THE EYES OF THE ELECTORATE.

3. PLAJA DESCRIBED THE SETTLEMENT AS INEVITABLE. THE CONTINUATION OF THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE OVER TRIESTE/ZONE B WAS AN ASSET NEITHER TO ITALY OR TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE.

4. IN PASSING TO THE DCM COPIES OF THE REMARKS WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE MAKING TO THE PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE AGREEMENT, PLAJA DESCRIBED ITS TERMS ALONG THE LINES MADE BY AMBASSADOR GAJA IN WASHINGTON (STATE 233659). HE DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO A "UNIQUE" ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR A 15 SQUARE KILOMETER FREE ZONE WITHIN ZONE B. WHILE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B PASSES TO YUGOSLAVIA, THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE AGREED TO GRANT ITALY THE USE OF THIS PARTICULAR AREA IN THE FUTURE. (PLAJA INDICATED THAT SOME LEGAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING THIS FORMULATION REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT.) THE ITALIANS DEEMED THIS NECESSARY SINCE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT LAND BEHIND TRIESTE TO PERMIT THE EXPANSION OF THE FREE ZONE AND THE RESULTANT STIMULUS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. ITALY IS SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF ITS EC PARTNERS FOR THIS PART OF THE AGREEMENT. (ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EC MADE A REPRESENTATION TO EC HEADQUARTERS OCTOBER 1 ON THIS SUBJECT.)

5. IN HIS PRESENTATION, PLAJA SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THAT THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CSCE. NEGOTIATIONS GOT UNDERWAY BEFORE THE FORMAL CSCE TALKS STARTED, AND FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR REFRAINED FROM MENTIONING HELSINKI IN ITS PRESENTATION
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TO THE PARLIAMENT OCTOBER 1. (HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER MORO DID DRAW ATTENTION TO THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI IN HIS REMARKS.)

6. PLAJA SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS NO SUBSTANTIAL DOMESTIC OPPOSITION ALTHOUGH IT IS AWARE THAT THE MSI AND ISTRIAN GROUPS WILL BE VOICING THEIR DISAPPROVAL. PLAJA HAD DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS GIOVANNI MALAGODI AND MANLIO BROSIO IN RECENT DAYS AND THEY WERE

UNDERSTANDING. HE BELIEVED THAT THE LIBERALS WOULD AT
WORST ABSTAIN ON THE PARLIAMENTARY VOTE AND WOULD POSSIBLY
VOTE FOR THE AGREEMENT. ALL THE OTHER PARTIES ARE POSI-
TIVELY DISPOSED TO THE AGREEMENT.

7. PLAJA INDICATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO WORK
OUT THE PARLIAMENTARY AND EC ASPECTS OF THE ACCORD. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS REVERSED ITS ORIGINAL
DECISION TO MAKE THE VOTES ON THE AGREEMENT ONES OF CON-
FIDENCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THE SOCIALISTS HAVE OPPOSED
THIS IDEA SINCE THEY WISH TO HAVE A VOTE IN WHICH THE
COMMUNISTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE MAJORITY POSITION ON
THE ISSUE. ACCORDINGLY, IT NOW APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE
SIMPLE VOTES ON THE AGREEMENT S EACH CHAMBER.

8. WE ARE POUCHING (EUR/WE) THE TEXT OF THE REMARKS OF RUMOR
AND MORO. VOLPE

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